



## *Director Stone's New Year's Address*

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed some time with family and friends. My two boys still believe in Santa so Christmas is very exciting at my house! The picture is of Griffin (5) and Mitchell (8) showing off the football helmets Santa brought them. We currently have a Cowboy's fan and a Steeler's fan, although that may change at any moment!

2018 is going to be a fantastic year for DDS. Over the past 18 months or so, we have all worked hard to set some substantial changes into motion. In 2018, we will see the fruits of our labor. I want to give a short recap of the goals we accomplished in 2017 and let you know what's coming in this new year.

### Major Goals Achieved in 2017:

- **February 2017:** Governor signed into law a bill directing \$8.5 million dollars of tobacco settlement money to be used for the DDS Waiver waitlist!! Act 775 of 2017 passed authorizing the Provider led Arkansas Shared Savings Entity (PASSE) model that will serve 8,000 of our DDS clients beginning this year
- **April 2017:** DDS internally revised our entire purchasing process to better track our spending
- **May 2017:** DDS brought in a human resource vendor to analyze turnover data at the Human Development Centers
- **June 2017:** DDS worked with DXC to finalize Phase I which allowed the old legacy MMIS and now the new Interchange system to operationalize all of our 2017 policy changes
- **July 2017:** New rules requiring a soft cap on occupational therapy, speech therapy, and physical therapy became effective
- **August 2017:** CMS approved changes to the DDS Waiver including the addition of 500 slots, and a name change to Community and Employment Supports (CES) to better emphasize our goal of helping clients achieve gainful, supportive employment
- **September 2017:** CMS approved more changes to the CES Waiver, a mandatory independent assessment by a third party vendor, and approved the new 1915b waiver that will allow us to operate the care coordination under the PASSE model this year

## January

1/1 New Year's Day

1/15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

1/26 DHS New Year's Celebration

## January Birthdays

1/3 Sheena Burton

1/6 Ella Hubbert

1/11 Raymond Donaldson

1/16 Sheila Warnick

1/18 Dorothy Vance

1/19 Kay Baudier

1/27 Vonnesia Taylor

## *Director's Stone's Address continued*

- **October 2017:** New rules tightening the requirements for both Developmental Day Treatment Clinic Services and Child Health Management Services became effective. Our vendor, Optum, began independent assessments on our clients who have been deemed to meet Institutional Level of Care requirements (ie, waiver, waiver waitlist clients, and those living in an Intermediate Care Facility)
- **November 2017:** The first client began receiving services on the CES Waiver utilizing the new tobacco settlement money. DDS internally reorganized to start the process of a centralized intake and referral unit for all of clients (both children and adults)
- **December 2017:** CMS approved changes to the Autism Waiver including the addition of 50 more slots! This was exciting and a long time coming...a big thanks to Regina Davenport, Tommy Tarpley, and Elizabeth Pitman for working so hard to get these changes approved this past year! Optum began Developmental Screens on all children entering DDTCS or CHMS programs at three sites in Central Arkansas

### Major Goals Set for 2018:

- Utilize a CRM (tracking system) for all client related activities that can be read by DDS employees in all units
- Develop a more robust continuum of care between the Title V program, First Connections, our day treatment centers, and other DDS programs/services for children with developmental delays and disabilities.
- Sunset both DDTCS and CHMS programs and implement the new Early Intervention Day Treatment (EIDT) program for children ages birth to six and the new Adult Developmental Day Treatment (ADDT) program for adults 18 and above
- Continue work with DXC to operationalize Phase II in the Interchange system to allow billing for all new programs and allow viewable access of DMS 640 prescription forms for OT, PT, Speech, and ABA therapy
- Continue to amend the Autism Waiver and make changes to the Medicaid State Plan to expand autism services
- Further amend the 1915c CES Waiver to align with the new PASSE model and amend the corresponding 1915b PASSE waiver to implement Phase II which is full risk on January 1, 2019
- Begin statewide implementation of the Developmental Screens at DDTCS and CHMS facilities
- DDS is committed to becoming a Model Employer and will hire between five and ten individuals with developmental disabilities at Central Office and the HDCs
- Continue to strengthen the relationship between care at our HDCs and the CES Waiver, which includes participating in community events, like the Craft Fair and finding employment opportunities in the community for both HDC clients and CES Waiver clients.

Like last year, we will be sending out a detailed spreadsheet with all the 2018 goals. Those listed above are just the big ones that came to mind! As always, I am so grateful for all of you and the work you do here at DDS. This is an amazing division. Keep up the good work this coming year!



## DHS Gift Wrap Supplies Drive

DHS ran a gift wrap drive concurrently with the DCFS Gingerbread toy drive to collect wrapping paper and accessories (ribbons, bows, name tags, etc.) for clients' and residents' gifts for Christmas. The proceeds were distributed among the five DDS Human Development Centers, Division of Youth Services, Adult Protective Services, and the Division of Children of Family Services. The DHS Central Complex collected a total of: 26 gift bags, 1 bike bag, 25 gift boxes, 120 rolls of wrapping paper, 8 bags of bows, 1 bag of raffia string, 15 spools of ribbon. Representatives from each program picked up supplies. Thank you, DHS for sharing your hearts and donations to lighten the load for these programs!



# Thank You



CHDC



SEAHDC

Division of Developmental Disabilities Services Human Development Centers



JHDC



Division of Youth Services



Division of Children and Family Services



BHDC



AHDC



Division of Aging & Adult Services

# SEAHDC & CHDC Special Olympic Committee Selectees



## SEAHDC

Mr. Larry Smith, Teacher Assistant, seated in the center, has been chosen by the Special Olympics Committee to fly to Seattle Washington in 2018 to coach the Special Olympics Finals. What an exciting opportunity! Go Larry, we are so proud of you! Seated clockwise is Tim Watson; Behavior Technician, Yvette Belin; Behavior Technician, Wanda Hampton; Rehabilitation Instructor, Patricia Williams; Rehabilitation Instructor, and Gennie Hampton; Teacher Assistant.

Submitted by Bettye Fleming, Administrative Specialist III, SEAHDC.



## CHDC

Three staff from CHDC have been selected as part of TEAM Arkansas. This is an honor to be selected and receive the golden ticket. For Special Olympics, 2018 will mark the first year that Arkansas has had a stand up paddle boarding team. This first team in this sport is led by our very own CHDC Program Coordinator, James Winnen. We also have CHDC's Habilitation Instructor, Todd Garrett, who is playing Unifies softball and Volunteer Services' Melissa Kackley, who is the assistant coach in soccer.

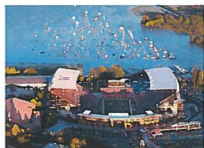
Submitted by Sarah Murphy, Superintendent, CHDC



Team Arkansas named for 2018 Special Olympics USA Games

Special Olympics Arkansas announces the team that will represent the state as Team Arkansas at the 2018 Special Olympics USA Games, held in Seattle, Wash., July 1-6, 2018. The 125 member team includes 72 athletes, 23 Unified Partners, and 30 coaches who will compete in eleven sports at the Games, including softball, basketball, bocce, bowling, flag football, golf, powerlifting, soccer, swimming, track and field, stand up paddle boarding.

Team Arkansas is a diverse team from all over the state. Visit our website <http://www.specialolympicsarkansas.org/2018-usa-games.html> for the full team list and their home towns.



The Opening Ceremonies for the 2018 USA Games will be held July 1 at beautiful Husky Stadium on the shore of Lake Washington.

"USA Games is a fantastic way for our athletes and coaches to represent Arkansas on a larger scale," said Special Olympics Arkansas Terri Weir. "We are excited to spend the next year preparing to compete. We hope that the entire state of Arkansas will get behind our team. Be a fan of Team Arkansas and I promise our athletes will exceed your expectations."

Arkansas athletes have a history of success at the 2014 USA Games in New Jersey the 130 member delegation competed in seven sports and brought back 167 medals. In addition to high performance at competition Arkansas is

Special Olympics Arkansas 2115 Main Street, North Little Rock, AR 72114 (501)771-0222

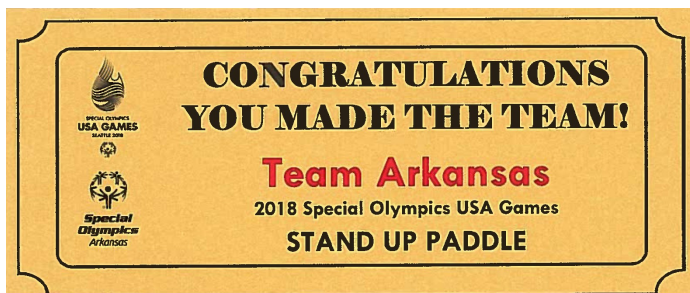


no stranger to trying new sports. In 2014 Arkansas entered a team in Unified Sprint Triathlon where we brought home the gold. 2018 will mark our first team for stand up paddle boarding, led by Coach James Winnen.

The total cost of sending Team Arkansas to the 2018 USA Games is will be \$200,000. For information about how you can help sponsor the team or to make a donation, contact Camie Powell [camie@specialolympicsarkansas.org](mailto:camie@specialolympicsarkansas.org) 501-771-0222 or 501-786-9029.

The 2018 USA Games are the fourth such games in Special Olympics history. Past USA Games were held in 2006 in Ames, Iowa; 2010 in Lincoln, Neb.; and in 2014 in New Jersey. Athletes will stay on the University of Washington campus during the Games and most of the competition venues will be at the University.

The 2018 USA Games will bring together more than 4,000 athletes and coaches representing all 50 states and the District of Columbia to compete in 14 Olympic-type team and individual sports. Thousands of volunteers and spectators will also be a part of the Games. The 2018 Special Olympics USA Games will celebrate the Special Olympics movement and its 50th anniversary; promote the ideals of acceptance and inclusion through sport; and showcase athletes from throughout the U.S. and the abilities of people with intellectual disabilities. The 2018 USA Games will also highlight Special Olympics' work in sport, education, health and community-building.





## *AHDC & The Drifters of Arkansas Motorcycle Club*

The Arkadelphia Human Development Center has been welcoming the Drifters of Arkansas Motorcycle Club for 17 years. Each year, the Drifters roll onto the AHDC campus bringing a trailer load of Christmas gifts for all AHDC residents. To raise money for the “Santa Fun Run”, the Drifters host a public Haunted House and use the donations to purchase the gifts. This event has proven to be a favorite for our residents. Submitted by Tammy Benbrook (DDS Assistant Director) and Johnathan Jones (AHDC Superintendent).





## *DDS Annual Christmas Party*

Thomas Tarpley (DDS CFO) started the party off with a welcome and instructions. Dale Woodall prayed and provided vocal and keyboard entertainment leading us in a medley of holiday tunes. Elizabeth Pitman won the first trivia game. Shelby Maldonado won the second game. The Secret Santa gift exchange was a hit! A good time was had by all. Thanks for participating and making this a great time of fun and fellowship!







## Clean Eats & Treats

Share your healthy recipes and meal preps.



## Exercise... Get Moving



## Plenty of R&R

Make sure to make time for a little rest and relaxation throughout the year to rejuvenate and recover.



## Save the Date

2nd Annual DHS New Year's Celebration

Friday, January 26, 2018

\*more details to come



## Coming in March

DDS recognizes National DD Awareness Month

\*more details to come



## Comments, Questions, & Suggestions

Please let us know what you'd like to see featured. If you'd like to be a guest writer, let us know. Send all to [yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov](mailto:yvette.swift@dhs.arkansas.gov)